

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UY, CI

SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN-CHILEAN RELATIONS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2780

1. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE GOU LOOKS WITH FAVOR ON THE NEW CHILEAN JUNTA. AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONTINUATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS MADE (SEE REFTTEL), A PLANE LOAD OF PLASMA AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLIES WAS DISPATCHED TO SANTIAGO ON SEPTEMBER 14 AND STILL ANOTHER URUGUAYAN AIR FORCE PLANE LEFT ON SEPTEMBER 18 WITH OTHER PROVISIONS FOR CHILE.

2. DESPITE ITS SEEMING APPROVAL OF THE TREND OF EVENTS IN CHILE, THE GOU IS CONCERNED ABOUT ONE RAMIFICATION OF THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS IN SANTIAGO. WORD IS REACHING MONTEVIDEO OF THE EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS FROM CHILE, AND THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT THE CHILEAN EMBASSY HAS STATED THAT THERE ARE 3256 URUGUAYANS ILLEGALLY IN CHILE. IT IS ACCEPTED THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED TUPAMARO (MLN) ACTIVISTS ARE AMONG THEM. THERE IS CONCERN IN THE GOU THAT THE TERRORISTS MAY GRADUALLY WORK THEIR WAY BACK INTO URUGUAYA VIA ARGENTINA OR EVEN RETURN DIRECTLY.

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3. INTERIOR MINISTER BOLENTINI COMMENTED ON THE SITUATION TO

THE PRESS ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 17 STATING THAT ANY URUGUAYAN MAY RETURN WHENEVER HE DESIRES BUT THOSE WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE ARRESTED.

4. PRIVATE REACTIONS OF URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO THE CHILEAN COUP RANGE FROM SHOCK TO A BELIEF THAT THE EVENTS IN CHILE JUSTIFY THE PREVENTATIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST MEASURES TAKEN HERE. ONE HARD-LINE GROUP WHICH INCLUDES SOME PROMINENT MILITARY FIGURES HOPES THAT THE CHILEANS WILL "TAKE CARE" OF THE TUPAMAROS.

5. WHATEVER THE CHILEANS MIGHT DO WITH (OR TO) ANY URUGUAYAN TERRORISTS IN CHILE, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME WILL RETURN HERE. THOSE WHO COMPLETED PRISON SENTENCES AND WERE RELEASED, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY DO SO LEGALLY. REGARDLESS OF THEIR STATUS, THE PROBABLE RETURN OF SOME MLN ADHERENTS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE GOU.
SIRACUSA

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